

According to TCA 55-8-101, a bicycle is a vehicle (read the definition of Bicycle and Vehicle), and roads are constructed for vehicular traffic. Legally, bicyclists have a legal right to be on the road.

Additionally, adult bicycle riders own cars and pay taxes. Child bicycle riders have adult parent(s) who own cars and pay taxes. They own the road as much as any other citizen. They have an ownership right to be on the road.

So far as passing is concerned, Tennessee Code Annotated 55-8-117, 55-8-119, and 55-8-120 outline how a vehicle is to pass and require safety in passing. The situation described in this and other letters violate those laws because the vehicle passing is not doing so safely. Any resulting accident is, or will be, the responsibility of the vehicle driver passing, not the one being passed. That responsibility includes any criminal or civil penalties. All states have similar laws.

Threatening another vehicle operator on the road is Road Rage. Saying, in print, you will hit someone is a threat. It can also be considered Hate Speech. If the writer of this letter is later involved in an accident as described, is it intentional?

The definition of Road Rage or Hate Speech does not change just because someone labels it as a joke. G105, Bob and Madison, and the parent company Clear Channel Communications should be held accountable for their words.

Advocating violence or the intentional injury or death of someone else is not a joke, and the radio station and owners need to understand this.